

think it was that important, but after I heard the debate, it could be a very serious, serious mistake, as Senator Warner said, that we would put five members on the board and insist that all five members approve of any claim. I am thinking not politically when I am saying this. I am thinking strictly on the fairness and equality, as Senator Chambers mentioned, for the people that file the claims. So I, therefore, support Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Labedz. The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I also support Senator Chambers' amendment. It is no problem. I think that is the way it should be, a majority of the board should decide, and as I mentioned before, I have no ulterior motives here and I think it is good that Senator Chambers brought this amendment. The same three people that are on there can do what they wish anyway, but I think the public is served by having two people on there who really frankly know what is going on. I support the Chambers amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. I would rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment, and it is not because I don't see it as a potential compromise, it sounds appealing at first, but in talking to Senator Warner privately and discussing what would really happen, I think you are going to find the same sort of thing that resulted in the State Board of Equalization effort on tax rate setting being changed happening with this Claims Board. What you would have, for instance, on the Commonwealth claim, you would have had the three appointees from the Governor voting for it and I will bet anything the two Republican elected officials voting against it, and other cases like that, where in fact what you interject is even more partisanship than was the case in the past. By moving away from that in 1981, we said the question of reviewing claims and making decisions on claims ought not to be a political one, ought not to be a totally partisan one, ought to be as independent as possible with three people that have some expertise and experience making that initial review. They don't make the final decision. Everybody has got to realize that. They don't make the decisions. All they do is recommend to the Legislature. We are asking for people